continue the discussion on the Calling Attention motion. Mr. Gopalsamy to continue.

CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

The recent floods and Cyclonic Storms, Particularly in Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Pondicherry and action taken by Government in regard thereto—contd.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY : Madam Vice-Chairman, I have been narrating with a heavy heart the traffic suffering of the people of the southern districts of Tamil Nadu due to the severe cyclonic storms and the torrential rains and the resultant floods. In Thirunelveli district, we witnessed the worst sufferers in a place called Melkarai, near Senkottai where seventeen bodies were recovered from the debris and the remaining bodies are yet to be recovered. In Ambasamudram, Cheranmadevi, Nanguneri, Velliyur, the affected lot are the farmers. Bananas raised in their lands were totally damaged. But I am pained to say that the Tamil Nadu Government sent a vague Memorandum to the Central Government seeking relief and financial assistance. I think such a vague report without substantiating the facts and figures would have never been submitted by any Government. When I went through the recommendations of the report, I found that the State Government devoted only one page, only three paragraphs, about my district. This is indicative of the reckless, callous attitude on the part of the bureaucrats and this is evident from the way they forwarded the report to the Central Government. They could say that the time at their disposal was very short. Then, they should say that they had not completed the assessment. For example, the report recorded that around ten thousand huts were damaged in Thirunelveli district. But in Thirunelveli town alone, in the headquarters of the district alone, around ten thousand houses were damaged. Ten thousand families as on today are left in the lurch. For hours together, I visited the streets where the houses were affected. More than thirty to forty thousand houses were damaged in the entire district. The Central Government is giving a pittance of financial assistance and they are putting forth so many arguments for that. That is different. But it is very unfortunate for the State of Tamil Nadu if the actual damage was not properly assessed and estimated and the relative facts and figures were not forwarded to the Central Government. The people of Tamil Nadu are the ultimate sufferers. There is no mention about Melkarai incident at all in this Memorandum. I do not know for what they sent this Memorandum. There is no mention about the damaged occurred to the farmers.

Same is the case with the adjacent district, Kanyakumari. Within a month, the people of Kanyakumari district had to witness two calamities. No details are available about this in the Report. In Chidambaranar district, one particular place, Attur, was severely affected by the floods. There is no mention about that. In the area around Attur Rs. 15 crore worth banana was damaged. There is no mention about it in this Memorandum. Again, in respect of Madurai district, there are no details. The landslide at Meghamalai claimed around 100 people and there are reports that more number of deaths might have happened. This is what the people in this area were saying. No details are available about this in this Memorandum.

Four lines were written about Ramanathapuram district. The fishermen in the coastal areas have lost all their livelihood. Thousands of boats were lost. There are some references as to how much they need for roads. But no particulars are given in the Report. I have collected hundreds of photographs which appeared in the newspapers. They say 'roads'. You give such and such amount for roads. No details are, however, given as to the roads damaged, the length of the roads, the portion of the damage, the number of bridges which were damaged and at what places. No particulars are available in this Memorandum sent by the Tamil Nadu Government. It is an intolerable injustice done to the people of Tamil Nadu. It is a betrayal of the people of Tamil Nadu. Tomorrow the Prime Minister is going to make an aerial survey. The peasants, the hutdwellers are expecting the Government to render all assistance, Contrary to their hopes, they are going to be asked to vacate the

school buildings in which they are now housed. The Education Department has to run the schools. No relief camps are properly arranged even today. Only on paper there are relief camps.

Political parties have made their own assessments. CPI, DMK, CPI (M), Congress—all these parties have sent their teams to make an assessment of the damage. But I do not think that the Government of Tamil Nadu has done justice to its people. The Central Government may be sending, I do not know, a team of officials. I request the hon. Minister to instruct them to assess the actual damage, the actual loss of property and the need of the hour. The Report is very simple. But the points which I referred to would enable the State Government to adequately meet the relief expenditure. The State Government demanded Rs. 530 crores. With such a Report, without any facts and figures, they demanded Rs. 530 crores. But the damage will be around Rs. 1000 crore. The 9th Finance Commission introduced a system of Calamity Relief Fund. There is, of course, hardly Rs. 10 crores available with the State Government.

What could they do ? The same Ninth Finance Commission has also made a provision in the report that "if any region faces calamity of such dimensions and severity as to warrant its handling at the national level, the Centre will take appropriate action as the situation demands and incur the necessary expenditure." So, there is a provision. May I request the hon. Minister to consider the situation in the State of Tamil Nadu where the allotted funds of the Centre will not at all meet the demand ? Will the Government consider this aspect in the light of this provision ? They should come forward. They should allot more funds. My friend, Mr. Balaram was saying that there is a feeling that the southern States are treated with a discriminatory attitude by the Centre, that there is step-motherly treatment by the Centre. Even Mr. Narayanasamy was saying that there is such a feeling. Yes, of course, now it is the duty of the Central Government to come to the aid and assistance of the people of Tamil Nadu, the citizens of India, when they need solace and succour and relief. And you could suggest that there should be a monitoring committee which could include representatives from all the political parties so that the relief work is properly done. It is because for two days and at some places for three days, no relief operation was carried out, no relief reached the people. For publicity sake, they could do anything. And they were telling that from the Chief Minister's own coffers and the coffers of the party, they are giving 'dhotis' and sarees. But many of the people who are really in need, and who were affected, have not been provided with relief :

Therefore, Madam, I would like to request the hon. Minister that when he sends another team from here, they should assess the correct situation and they could call for further reports because this is a very vague report and this is a vague memorandum sent by the Government of Tamil Nadu. Therefore, Madam, I would request the hon. Minister to consider our demand so that the Centre could allot more funds generously to help the people of the State of Tamil Nadu. Thank you, Madam.

SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN (Tamil Nadu) : Madam, I owe my gratitude to you for allowing me to give my opinion and feelings in the matter of floods and other natural calamities. Calamities come in trial. A great poet once said sorrows come not singly but in trail. As far as India is concerned, I could say that calamities do not come in train but in plane. It has become a periodical happening in the whole of India. Last year, earthquake visited upon us in one part of the country. Prior to that, Andhra was devastated by floods for two or three years successively. This year the victim is the southern part of India.

Madam, enough has been said about what has happened. My friends have already described the calamity in detail. Friends who spoke today and made special mentions the other day, have already described in detail about the lives lost, the number of people rendered homeless, the belongings of the people that have been washed away and the number of cattle which died. They have also described how the corpses are now spreading diseases like the cholera etc., how the land has been covered with a thick layer of

silt on a vast stretch, how the crops have been damaged, and how the people are suffering. Madam, their woes are capable of melting even the stony hearts. I appreciate Mr. Gopalsamy for his sober mood today. A storm, a cyclone has become a gentle breeze because of the magic that played upon him due to the storm, the cyclonic storm that has devastated the Southern States.

I do not want to beat about the bush by once again repeating what has happened. But I want to bring to the notice of the Government as to what has to be done hereafter. Charging one or the other for the acts of omission or commission means politicalisation of the issue. In such a situation, politics does not come in with a solution. Calamities visit us and bring sorrows to our people. We can imagine their woes. All are concerned about it. But what is to be done? That is the question before us. As soon as something happens, rescue operations have to be started immediately. Then comes the question of giving relief, temporary relief. Then comes the question of rehabilitation, which is the essential part of it. So far as rescue is concerned, only those who are nearby, can rush to the rescue of the people. They can provide some rescue immediately. As far as relief for them is concerned, organisations such as the government machinery and others, play a role. But as far as rehabilitaion is concerned, we have to think and give serious consideration to this aspect. My friend, Mr. Gopalsamy, just now told us that there was no organised effort in giving relief to the people. There might have been some efforts, some hapazared efforts, some sporadic efforts, some spontaneous efforts; but there was no organised effort. The efforts should have been concerted and organised in a proper way. The moment somebody is in sorrow, we should be governed by the sense of grief, not by the sense of publicity or selfishness; it should not be for the sake of a prize or for the sake of earning a tribute from others, but it should be for the sake of human affection. We should go there to give a hand, to rescue them and to provide relief and rehabilitaion for them. Madam, it is a fact that the Governments fail. It is immaterial whether it is the State Governments or the Central Government. As far as such calamities are concerned, our Governments fail, in the sense that there is no organised and concerted effort to give relief to the people. Just see the quantum of relief given to these people. To those who have been rendered homeless, houseless, the Kerala Government is giving Rs. 5,000, and the Tamil Nadu Government is giving Rs. 500. There is no uniformity even in this. Sir...

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY : Madam.

SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN : I am very sorry. I am seeing an *Ardhanareeswar* there.

SHRI N. E. BALARAM : There is no *Ardhanareeswar*.

SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN : Yes. She is our mother. Mother can be called 'he' or 'she'.

SHRI N. E. BALARAM : Mother cannot be called 'he'.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY : Mother, at times, beats every child.

SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN : We are now talking about a very serious matter. She is mother for me. She is Cauvery for me.

As I said, Madam, there is no concerted effort. There is no uniformity in our effort. There is no consistent and persistent effort. This is what we should lay stress on. When Mr. Gopalsamy, myself, and people like us, visit them, we see how they throng around us, how much hope they have on us, that we would relieve their sorrow and suffering.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY : Poor fellows.

SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN : Madam, there are two kinds of losses. One is the loss suffered by individuals. The other is the loss suffered by the society.

Individuals have lost their property. They have lost their kith and kin. They have lost their belongings. What is more important they have lost their means of livelihood. One does not have shelter. One does not have food. One does not have clothes to wear. On the top of it all, one has lost the means of livelihood. The fields are covered with silt. They

have to be reclaimed. The artisan has lost his equipment. The vendor has lost his goods. (*Hime-bell rings*) What are we going to do for these people. How are we going to rehabilitate them ? That is the important thing. Therefore, there is need for a proper asessment of the loss suffered by individuals. We should provide them with enought funds. It may be through loans or through grants. Banks should be called upon to come to their help. Institutions like the Life Insurance Corporation of India, which has enough funds with it, should be called upon to come to their help. Then, there are a number of public sector undertakings. There are also the private entrepreneurs. They are having a lot of money with them by way of Reserve Fund. They should be called upon to extend assistance to these people. They should be called upon to render service to these people. Individuals can be helped in this way.

Now, there has been a huge loss of public property also. School buildings have been destroyed. Many rivers have breached and, therefore, the bunds have to be repaired. Roads have been damaged. Culverts have been damaged. Bridges have been damaged. These all have to be repaired. The reconstruction work has to be taken up immediately.

I have gone through the statement made by the Minister. There is a mention about the Calamities Relief Fund. It is very vague. There is a reference to the Ninth Finance Commission. The Ninth Finance Commission has suggested something. (*Time-bell rings*). I do not know whether the suggestion of the Ninth Finance Commission has been taken up for implementation. The Government has to give a categorical reply to clarify whether there is a move to build an institution on the basis of recommendation made by the Ninth Finance Commission. If so, what is the institution, whether it was enough funds to meet the expenditure which would recur every year or twice in a year or once in five years ? What is the mode of resource mobilisation for such an institution ? I think the institution has to play a vital role in the history of this country. The institution has to be constituted very soon and it has to be provided with a very large amount of fund. It needs enormous funds. A few thousands of rupees here and there are not sufficient. If you calculate the amount which the State Governments have demanded, it comes to more than Rs. 2000 crores. Kerala requires Rs. 500 crores, Tamil Nadu requires Rs. 500 crores, Karnataka says that it requires Rs. 500 crores and even Andhra may claim that it will require Rs. 500 crores. So, every year we need more than Rs. 1000 crores for rehabilitation works. I request the Government to have a reserve fund of at least Rs. 1000 crores to undertake hehabilitation works whenever such calamities occur. The question is, how to mobilise these resources ? I do not want to put burden on the shoulders of the Central Government or the State Governments. We have a population of 80 crores in this country. If each one of us contributes one rupee per month, we can mobilise Rs. 80 crores each month. The total in a year will come to Rs. 960 crores, or say Rs. 1000 crores. So, only one rupee per head has to be set apart from our income for this purpose. Can't we give one rupee for such a purpose ? Then small scale industries should be asked to give Rs. 10 per month. Vendors may be asked to give something. Big companies may be asked to contribute something every month for this fund. Then the Life Insurance Corporation, which covers the risks to life, has enormous funds. We can approach the LIC to contribute for this purpose. In this way a very big reserve fund will be there at the disposal of this institution and this fund may be called 'Prime Minister's Calamity Relief Fund' or it can be given any other name. The funds so mobilised can be utilised for any calamity occurring in any part of the country. You can come to their rescue immediately and relief and rehabilitation works can start without any loss of time. So, Madam, the Government should make all-out efforts in this respect. I make an appeal not only to the Members here, not only to the politicians, but to all the people to come closer. Let us forget that we belong to a particular sect or a particular region, or a particular State or a particular religion or a particular party. Let us rise above party, let us rise above region and religion, let us come closer and think of the people, think of the country. Let us be united through the spirit of love and affection and let us save the millions of people. With

these words, Madam, I request the Minister to make a concerted effort, taking into cognizance the magnitude and gravity of the situation, and have an accelerated programme in this respect. Thank you.

SHRI RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI (Kerala) : Madam, I agree with the views expressed by other hon. Members. I also agree with the hon. Member from Tamil Nadu, who spoke about the statement of the hon. Minister of Agriculture.

The hon. Minister, in his statement, refers only to one part of the Finance Commission that deals with the responsibilities of the State Government. Of course, another part of the Finance Commission's report deals with the responsibilities of the Central Government. Paragraph 6.18 of the first report of the Ninth Finance Commission states :

> "If any region faces a calamity of such dimensions and severity as to warrant its handling at the national level, we are confident that the Centre will take appropriate action as the situation demands and incur the necessary expenditure."

So, I request the Central Government to consider the calamity that affected the States of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry, Kerala and Karnataka as a national calamity and provide adequate relief to these States.

The cyclonic rains had caused flash floods in all these States and caused heavy loss of life and also heavy damage. In Kerala, Madam, this is the fifth time during the course of 15 months that a national calamity has occurred. In 1991 August, floods and landslides affected Kerala, killing 125 persons and injuring 134 persons. The loss to the various sectors is estimated at Rs. 353 crores. Immediately after these floods, drought affected Kerala and the loss due to the drought is estimated at Rs. 127.92 crores. Then the south-west monsoon, in the months of June and September again caused massive destruction in Kerala. More than 43,000 houses were damaged, many house-sites were also washed away and it took a toll of 135 lives and injured hundreds of people. The loss to the various sectors is estimated at Rs. 352.75 crores. Again, in the month of October 1992 flash floods affected Kerala. They claimed 100 lives and injured many hundreds. The loss on this account is estimated at Rs. 535 crores. Then came these cyclonic rains. They killed about 200 persons, injured many hundreds. Thousands of houses were washed away and many house-sites were also washed away. Many kilometres of roads, many dams, many culverts, many electrical installations and water supply installations were also washed away in the heavy floods. The total loss on account of these cyclonic rains is estimated at Rs. 536 crores. To put together all the loss that has occurred to Kerala in the last 15 months, it will come to the tune of Rs. 1,904 crores. The effect of the damage is long-term because all these infrastructure facilities were washed away. The crops in Kerala are plantation crops, long-term crops. So, it requires a long-term investment. The effect of the damages in Kerala is a long-term one, and the Central Government should address itself to the peculiarities and specialities of Kerala.

The Central Government has not sanctioned adequate relief. Of course, the State Government, as per the recommendations of the Ninth Finance Commission, constituted a State calamity relief fund and mobilised, it seems, about Rs. 31 crores. This is not sufficient to meet this. The loss is to the tune of more than Rs. 1,900 crores. So, the State Government alone canot give adequate relief to the problems we face in Kerala.

In Tamil Nadu, this cyclonic storm cost 275 human lives, and it affected the southern parts of Tamil Nadu. The seriousness is seen in 12 districts. Roads, tanks, electricity installations and lakhs of houses were damaged. It is estimated that standing crops, both plantation and other crops, on 50,000 hectares of land and 2 lakh houses were damaged in Tamil Nadu.

So, in all these southern States the Central Government should give adequate relief. The Central Government should consider this calamity as a national calamity and provide adequate relief because the resources available with the State Governments are not sufficient for the relief

work needed for this. So, I once again request the Central Government to give adequate relief to all the State Governments concerned.

SHRI A. K. ANTONY (Kerala) : Madam, I agre with most of the points raised by my colleagues who spoke earlier. I also sympathise with the lakhs and lakhs of people of Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and also my State, who are still suffering because of those floods. I would request the Central Government, through the Agriculture Minister, to extend the maximum possible assistance to all the States—Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and also to my State, Kerala. Friends coming from States other than Kerala, have already explained the situation in their own States. So, I am not going to repeat what they have already said. The only thing is that I also share their agonies. I also strongly support their cases.

Coming to Kerala, our case needs more sympathetic consideration because of one special reason. Nowhere in India within a short span of 14 months have five tural calamities occurred, except in Kerala. We were affected by four floods and one drought within a span of fourteen months. How can a State Government meet this kind of large-scale calamities? As a result of these five calamities, nearly Rs. 2000 crores worth of properties were damaged. My colleague, Shri Ramachandran Pillai has already explained one by one in detail as to what happened in the first flood, second flood, third drought, fourth flood and fifth flood. Nearly Rs. 1993 crores worth of properties were damaged. That is why I had mentioned Rs. 2000 crores worth of properties have been damaged. It is such a huge amount and it comes to two-thirds of the annual expenditure of the State of Kerala. How can a small State like Kerala cope with this large-scale calamity? Even during the November floods, the total loss of property, according to the latest report, is Rs. 624 crores. In October's floods it was Rs. 531 crores and from the beginning of the calamity up till now it is nearly Rs. 2000 crores.

The Central Government says that the Kerala State will get financial assistance according to the norms of the Ninth Finance Commission. According to the Ninth Finance Commission, we are entitled to get Rs. 31 crores over a period of five years. Our loss in the last fourteen months is nearly Rs. 2000 crores. As per the present norm, we will get Rs. 31 crores. The remaining Rs. 1900 crores, The State Government will have to find out for itself; otherwise the people of Kerala will have to suffer. Unless we change the present norms and recommendations of the Ninth Finance Commission, I am afraid, a large part of Kerala will face famine conditions very soon. I am afraid there are going to be starvation deaths in the State of Kerala. I am not exaggerating the things because standing agricultural crops have been damaged. Nearly in five districts of Kerala, unless the peasants as well as agricultural workers and other people are provided with help within a few weeks, there is going to be famine conditions in these districts. Epidemics will erupt. People will die out of starvation. So we have to prevent this disaster. The Central Government can only help us. The State Government in Kerala is already in a financial crisis. As per the statement of the Minister, a sum of Rs. 17 crores has been released. We can expect, as per the Ninth Finance Commission recommendations only another Rs. 15 crores. But after the latest floods, we need Rs. 624 crores. If we are given Rs. 15 crores, it is nothing. If we are given even Rs. 100 crores, it is nothing. So my request to the Central Government is that they must come in a big way. According to the Ninth Finance Commission, there is a provision, there is a recommendation that in case of a great natural calamity the Centre can come to the rescue of a State. In para 6.18 of the Finance Commission's report it is there. "In case of calamities at the national level, we are confident that the Centre will take appropriate action as the situation demands and incur the necessary expenditure." So this is a natural calamity. Within fourteen months, there have been five natural calamities in Kerala; four floods and one drought. No State Government can meet these calamities alone. So, this has to be considered as a 'national calamity'. I feel that Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry and Karnataka also deserve special attention

now. So, now, the Centre should change its pattern of assistance. Please do not stand on the Ninth Finance Commission norms. After all, why are we here? We are here to make laws, to change laws if needed. We have to change the rule. No rule is sacrosanct as far as people are concerned. If we have to change the rule, the norm, to protect the people, we have to change it. Our Agriculture Minister is a fighter for farmers. Now he has to show that fighting spirit to help the people of the southern States. I am not meaning something else by 'fighting spirit'. I am thankful to him for his generosity in visiting Kerala twice within two months and expressing sympathy. We are thankful to him for that. But sympathy alone is not enough. Sympathy is all right for the first time. Now we want money. Now we want the real money. There also, not loan. How can we repay the loan? It is impossible. We want grants. At least fifty per cent should be grants. Already, my senior colleague, Mr. Balaram, has said that fifty per cent of it should be by way of loan and fifty per cent grants. I agree with him. This is the first time a good thing in Kerala. We are always fighting in politics. For the first time in our State, irrespective of the political parties we belong to—Mr. Rajgopal from the BJP, Mr. Ramachandran Pillai from the CPM, Mr. Balram from the CPI, Mr. Abdulla Koya from the Muslim League and I from the Congress—all of us are united. We are in the same course. Irrespective of politics, we are united in requesting the Central Government to help us. Otherwise, hundreds of our people, hundreds of our brothers and sisters, will die of starvation. To avoid starvation deaths, to avoid a famine, to allow the people of Kerala to live in respect, you declare these floods as a national calamity. This is not a calamity for the people of Kerala. This is a calamity for the people of India. This is a national calamity. So treat it as such and give us the maximum support by way of grant. The Prime Minister is going tomorrow to Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry and Karnataka.

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY (Uttar Pradesh) : Is he going for the flood to Tamil Nadu or .....

SHRI A. K. ANTONY : Please do not mix politics in this. This is not a political issue. We are fighting the CPM every day. In spite of it, on this issue, the CPI, the CPM, the BJP, the Muslim Leage and the Congress, all of us, are together. We are not bringing in our political differences on this issue. This is not a political issue. As far as we are concerned, on this one issue,..... (*Interruption*). On this issue we are one. There is no poiltics in this. This is not a political issue. And, we will find out other issues also on which we may fight together. (*Interruptions*). I do not want to deviate from this.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN) : Yes, Please continue, Mr. Antony.

SHRI A. K. ANTONY : My request is this. I am not going to elaborate on the details of the damages because already my colleagues have explained those things and I do not want to repeat the same thing. My request is, please forget this Ninth Finance Commission. Already, the period of the Ninth Finance Commission is going to end. You think about the national calamity; think about the people. Prevent starvation deaths there; prevent a famine there. Help the people. You have to also help the Kerala Government to reconstruct the buildings, schools and national highways. Even the national highways are damaged. We have to come to some places through Tamil Nadu. Formerly, Mr. S.K.T. Ramachandran used to come to Trivandrum and go there. Now, he cannot do that. He has to come now via Madras. It will take days for him now. So the national roadways are also in danger. A lot of difficulties are there. In order to overcome them, kindly give us money. You monitor the whole operation. We will not waste a single paisa on this. Give us the maximum help. I hope the Minister for Agriculture will rise to the occasion. As I said earlier, we are thankful to you for your two visits. But I must be true to myself. I feel very-very sad when I read your statement. I am totally disappointed because you are still trying to confine yourself to the recommendations of the Ninth Finance Commission,

You forget about that. If you think still like that, it will be very, very disastrous for us. Try to help us. (*Interruptions*) Now we have to find a way out. If there is a will, there is a way. You must help the people, especially the people of Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry and Karnataka. I do not minimise the magnitude of losses suffered by other States. But as far as Kerala is concerned, within 14 months, we have had five calamities—four floods and one drought. It has never happened in the history of Kerala. That is why I request the hon. Minister to treat Kerala as a special case and help the people of Kerala. Thank you.

SHRI O. RAJGOPAL (MADHYA PRADESH) : Madam Vice-Chairman, I am in full agreement with my colleagues who spoke here—Mr. Antony, Mr. Pillai, Mr. Balaram and others regarding the plight of the people affected by floods in the southern parts of our country. Our party constituted a four-men Committee to go into these matters and a member of that team. I had occasion to visit the flood affected areas in Tamil Nadu and Kerala yesterday and the day before yesterday and could see some of them for myself. Now figures have already been given of the magnitude of the losses suffered. I do not want to go into the details about the losses suffered already. We can just get an idea of the magnitude of the floods when we find that in Kerala two elephants were washed away. It just gives an idea about the nature of havoc that has been created. The House will be aware that the railway line between Trivandrum and Kanyakumari is not functioning because a part of it has been destroyed. Even National Highway No. 47 on your way to Kanyakumari, we could see a part of it has been damaged. It has been completely washed away. By people's effort and by the cooperation of the Government machinery, it is now somehow motorable for some time. This is the position not only in Kanyakumari district but also in some areas in Quilon and Idukki districts.

Now, so far as Kerala is concerned, the Minister for Agriculture is in-charge of this situation. Now I find from the figures available, 34000 hectares of paddy 11,000 hectares of banana, 16,000 hectares of tapioca, 6,000 acres of coconut, 7,720 acres of rubber and 8,520 hectares of pepper just gives the magnitude of the damage that has been sustained by the agricultural sector itself in Kerala. Similar is the position in Tamil Nadu. Twenty three persons have lost their lives, about 1,43,000 persons have lost either totally or partially their houses; 50,000 hectares of agricultural land have been affected, a number of bridges and culverts have been affected. Even the number of districts affected is 11 but the worst affected are three—Kanyakumari, Thirunelveli and V.O.C. Now the Tamil Nadu Government has claimed Rs. 530 crores. I think it is a very reasonable amount that they have claimed. As somebody suggested, it is an underestimated amount. Now Kerala has claimed Rs. 620 crores.

This is because it is part of three or four series of calamities that we had to suffer. Now one thing that I would like to urge—which has been pointed out by many others also—is that this is a fit case where the criteria pointed out by the finance Commission of certain things being considered as national calamity have to be applied. This natural calamity should be deemed as national calamity and should be dealt with as such, but I am sorry to point out the manner in which it is being dealt with by the hon. Minister in his statement. Now he says, "We had in Kerala recently two floods, one in October and another one in November." After October the hon. Minister came and promised Rs. 115 crores. Mostly it is advance payment. There is no grant, only advance payment. Now after this November incident, which is the worst, which occurred on November 13 and 14 of this year, the Central Government had not paid any amount even as per this statement. The reference to Rs. 17.43 crores is with regard to the damages suffered in October. Page 3 of the statement makes it clear. As stated by Mr. Antony and all others, the worst flood havoc has taken place in Kerala; the hon. Minister himself came and visited the areas and even after that, nothing had been given. Now, there is a promise, the Prime Minister is coming. Very good. Welcome. But I am told the Prime Minister is going to spend 20 minutes for consideration of the problem of Kerala and Karanataka together by an aerial survey. Now the water is not

remaining there. Seventeen days have elapsed already. The damage due to the houses and crops cannot be evaluated by an aerial survey in a Boeing. I think the ground realities will have to be taken into account. For that purpose even at this late stage some Central team is going; that is a good thing. Of course, everybody has demanded that more funds should be given. It is quite a justified demand. Funds should be given. But that, by itself, I submit, is not sufficient.

Now there has been a reference to Kerala being given Rs. 5,000 for houses destroyed and Tamil Nadu Rs. 500 only. It is not a new development. I am told regarding this Rs. 500 limit that it is as per the norm fixed in the report which is prevalent for some time. There is a need to update the whole thing as it is for all the houses. In Kanyakumari district I saw myself so many houses of middle class people destroyed. The minimum it would cost is about a lakh. That is regarding the houses destroyed. This pittance of Rs. 500 is not sufficient at all. Now the code stands in the way of enhancement. But some way should be found out by which these middle-class people who have lost their houses get more relief. There should be some provision by which the loss can be compensated.

Madam, I would like to suggest here that apart from the additional grant that should be given by the Central Government taking into account this national calamity, there are certain other provisions which the Government can make; there are certain other things which the Government can do. Number one, I would suggest that a Central Relief Fund should be constituted and that Fund should be made available only for meeting the requirements of such natural calamities. I understand in Kerala—I could gather it from the officials—an amount of Rs. 31 crores which is given per annum from this Fund is being untilised for other purposes in which case when actually such a calamity taken place, people do not obtain anything. Therefore, it should be made obligatory that the amounts given for this purpose shall be utilised only for this specific purpose. That should be made specific. The second thing is that with this small amount, where it is Rs. 500 or Rs. 5,000 or Rs. 10,000, they cannot build a house, especially the middle class people who have lost about a lakh of rupees on their houses. So, I would suggest that the banks, the nationalised banks, should be directed to give interest-free loans on a condition of long-term repayment. This provision should be made. It will help these people to reconstruct their houses. The famine code which is applicable to the flood relief purpose should also be updated. Now, some guidelines are given to the banks—they are all very old—which are not quite in tune with the present requirements. Therefore, these things need to be updated. The recommendations of the Finance Commission regarding the question of allocation of Calamity Relief Fund should also be modified and updated. Taking into account all these things, I fully endorse the views expressed by many Members here that a feeling is growing in the southern part of the country that they are being neglected, that they are not being kept in mind. This is the feeling of the people of South India. Now, we find here no mention about Andhra where more than two-and-a-half lakh hectares of paddy crop was completely destroyed. There is absolutely no mention about the damages suffered in Andhra which means these things are treated in a very casual manner. The actual difficulties felt by the people from far deep in the south are not properly reflected in the quarters where decisions are taken. This attitude must change. I hope the unanimity of views among the Members belonging to various political parties would compel the Government to change their attitude in this matter.

SHRI ARANGIL SREEDHARAN: Madam Vice-Chairperson, the grimness of the situation that obtained in the South Indian States has been very graphically described by my colleagues who participated in the discussion before me. They have enumerated the problems concerning each State. But I would like to look at them from a national point of view. Natural calamities have become an inseparable part of our national life. There is flood somewhere and there is drought somewhere. Every year what we find is that a large number of people are suffering from natural calamities. There are two ways of looking at them. One is the usual,

the beaten track, way of looking at them. When floods occur, when cyclones occur, when droughts occur, we sit up to the realties and then try to resolve the problems. We are alive to the situation only when it occurs. We don't have a perspective approach, we don't look at it as a natural calamity from a preventive point of view. Modern science developed to such an extent that we can predict cyclones, we can predict earthquakes and such other natural calamities. We are told that we have satellites. Millions of rupees are being spent on these satellites. My experience in Kerala tells me that in some areas, if the message about the impending calamity had gone earlier, a lot of damages would have been avoided.

Now, I come to floods. In some areas floods occur recurrently. Certain areas are called flood-prone areas. Some of the areas where river-beds have severe siltation can be identified and precautionary steps can be taken to prevent it. But no such effort has been made so far to look into it from the preventive point of view. Now about the rehabilitation point of view, when floods are assessed, we talk only in terms of loss of agricultural crop, only in terms of loss of life, loss of property, loss of residential areas, but we never think in terms of ecological loss, the ecological ravages which will destroy our agriculture for years to come. What should be done to restore the ecological loss, to rehabilitate the ecological loss ? We should think of it also. These are some of the genuine problems concerning floods and natural calamities. Now, I come to my State. My colleagues have very graphically pointed out the heavy losses sustained because of these floods. The Chief Minister of Kerala stated that the Government will pay Rs. 45,000 as compensation—Rs. 25,000 from the Central fund and Rs. 20,000 from the State fund. Human life is a precious thing. I would like to put the two pictures before you. If a common-man's life is lost due to floods or natural calamities, you are very reluctant to pay, to meet his expenses or to compensate for his loss. But if a man is travelling by plane, an influential person flying from Delhi to some other place, if his life is lost, lakhs of rupees are paid as compensation. This is the way we look at human tragedy. Somebody said : "The least and the most imaginary uneasiness of the rich is aggravated by the power of eloquence and held up to attract the sympathetic sorrow and attention of others." This is what is happening in this country. When a rich man who can afford and whose families can afford to live in luxury, when he loses his life, he gets heavy compensation. But when a poor man loses his life the compensation is thoroughly inadequate. So I would plead that for every life that has been lost, a lakh of rupees should be paid as compensation. Mr. Ramachandran who spoke here, drew the attention of the House to the need to have a common fund to meet these exigencies. A common fund should be generated by the Government of India and that fund should be a revolving fund. It should go around whenever there is a calamity. It should be given to the people belonging to any State irrespective of political considerations. I come from a Southern State. I come from a far-away State. When tragedy occurs it takes a long time to reach here. It has been our experience in the past that when South Indian States suffer from such calamity very little is done to ameliorate their condition. We have to come a long way to knock the doors of the Central Government. Now about the aerial survey. What can you find from an aerial survey ? Let the Minister go through it. But very little can be understood from aerial survey. You have to go to these areas. You have to coordinate the activities of the State Government and the Central Government. About my State Government, I am sorry to say that they have not treated this problem with the seriousness it deserves. During the begining of the discussion I pointed out some of the discrepancies in the figures given by the State Government to the Members of Parliament. The State Government is caught up in political compulsions of the State, There is precious little time to think of the exigencies of the situation. So I would suggest through you, the Agriculture Ministry should persuade the State Government to constitute a committee of Members of the legislature to monitor, to supervise and also guide the activties calculated to ameliorate the difficulties that are faced by the people due to floods. The people of Kerala are looking up to the Centre for more liberal assistance.

We seek this liberal assistance as a matter of right. Thousands of people from our State have gone outside the country and are earning precious foreign exchange for this country. When we come and ask you for some assistance, it is on the basis of the contributions that we have made to the Centre. I hope that the Central Government will realise the gravity of the situation and will take into consideration the services that have been rendered by the people of my State and will give more generous aid to my State. Thank you Madam.

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN (Tamil Nadu) : Madam Vice-Chairman, I was in the library when hon. Member, Mr. V. Gopalsamy, spoke here regarding cyclones and floods in Tamil Nadu. And it appears that he had said that the report that had been sent by the Tamil Nadu Government to the Government of India did not contain any details. I do not know how the hon. Member got the report. As the Leader of that party here, I myself haven't got the report and he had said that the report sent by the Government to the hon. Prime Minister did not contain many details. I do not understand what kind of details he wants. The details had already been given and a note had also been circulated to the Members of Parliament belonging to Tamil Nadu when the hon. Chief Minister called us for a tea and she handed us a brief. It is only the brief that I have got and many of the facts contained here have already been mentioned by Shri O. Rajgopal regarding—230 lives being lost, 1,43,000 houses fully and partially damaged, 50,000 hectares of land including banana crops being completely damaged, a number of bridges being damaged, 13,580 kms. of roads damaged etc. All the details are here. Once you have the details, the details have to be constructed. And unless you construct all those details, you may not be able to send the abridged details to the Government of India. If the Government of India wants more details, the Tamil Nadu Government will be very happy to supply all the details based on which the whole thing was constructed... (*Interruptions*).

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY : It has already been given in the memorandum.

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN : I don't know... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY : Why do you try to defend a defenceless case ?

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN : No, it is not defenceless. We had already stated the number of lives lost etc., and the whole thing had been calculated. If you want all the calculation sheets, that will come to a bundle and I don't think that it is necessary to send all the sheets, on which the calculations were made, to the Centre because... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI N. E. BALARAM : Don't quarrel over it.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY : Never before has such a worthless memorandum been submitted by any Government.

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN : May be the Governments that have been there have always been sending unnecessary details and we have made it crisp. We send the relevant details only which are necessary for the Government of India to make decisions... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI N. E. BALARAM : We know the difference.

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN : Merely having a bulky report containing all unnecessary details does not help. we can also take the details if you want us to from every village and the details can be culled out and every district can give a bulky report. And if the whole report goes to the Prime Minister, he may not be able to... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY : No. It is the duty of the Government. Whether it is a bulky report or not is not the question. It is the duty of the State Government.

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN : We have all the details... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY : It is the duty of the State Government to send a memorandum in detail to the Central Government. It is your duty.

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN : The memorandum has already been sent, all the necessary facts have already been sent to

the Government of India. And if they require more details, the Government of India is welcome to ask us and we are here to supply the facts ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY : Because of you, not only the lives of the people have been paralysed but the Government itself has become paralysed in Tamil Nadu.

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN : The Government is never paralysed. Only Mr. Gopalsamy is paralysed.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN) : He doesn't seem to be paralysed. He is reacting.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY : I am very much thankful to Mr. Swaminathan's wishes that I should get paralysed... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN : It is the DMK and the AIADMK who both paralysed Tamil Nadu.

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN : We, from Tamil Nadu know who has paralysed Mr. Gopalsamy's party. That is a different matter. I don't want to talk about it here. The only thing that I want to mention here is, before us, hon. Members from Kerala spoke here and they were very wise. They have been saying that on a party basis we should not quarrel, it is a matter of common interest to all the people belonging to Kerala...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN : Don't politicise such issues.

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN : I am sorry that the hon. Member, Mr. Gopalsamy, was not here when some of the Kerala Members spoke. I am all praise for them because they have been taking the party... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY : But one thing, Mr. Swaminathan. The Kerala Ministers never said that they would contribute from their party fund. You should note that in your mind.

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN : That is a different matter.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY : That is an important issue.

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN : Unfortunately, the only problem with Mr. Gopalsamy is that he politicises everything including floods and cyclones and he wants to fish in troubled waters...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN : Mr. Gopalsamy says that you are politicising the issue.

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN : I am not. I never dragged him at all. Because he spoke about me, I had to say about it... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY : Madam, the Revenue Minister of the State says that they are contributing from their party fund.

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN : Madam, you please ask him not to interrupt.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN) : I thought you have yielded. I thought that you were yielding to him. Mr. Gopalsamy, please don't interrupt.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN) : Let him complete.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY : But it is his painful duty to adhere to the Party's guidelines.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN) : Let him complete, Mr. Gopalsamy.

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN : I do not know, Madam, how he finds out about what I am thinking in my heart. Even my wife does not know what I am thinking because I am a long-time politician having a poker face at all the items Mr. Gopalsamy cannot find out what am I thinking and what is my feeling.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY : You have a very deep heart.

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN : Madam, I only request you that as most of my time has been taken away by Mr. Gopalsamy, you should not ask me to sit down without giving me time. I only request the Members from Tamil Nadu including Mr. Gopalsamy, to take it as a matter of common interest, irrespective of the fact that he belongs to DMK, I belong to

AIADMK or Mr. Ramachandran belongs to Congress. Everyone of us should see to it that we get the maximum from the hon. Minister for Agriculture. Unfortunately the hon. Cabinet Minister is not here when I was speaking.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN) : He said he would come back in a few minutes.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY : Your Ministers were not present even to receive him there. Now you are telling that he is not here.

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN : All our Ministers had been away to visit the flood-affected areas...

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY : The Finance Minister was readily available in Madras. What was he doing ?

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN : The Finance Minister was calculating the amount... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN : Please do not pay heed to Mr. Gopalsamy... (*Interruptions*)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN) : Please, let us complete.

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN : I am very much standing here. He cannot pull me down. I would not sit down and I would not yield to him. Madam, another point that has been raised by the hon. Member Mr. Ramachandran is that you should have sympathy in your heart when you go to a flood affected area and you should not be after publicity. I do not now about whom he mentioned.

SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN : I talked about the whole country. I talked about the whole people. I did not mean anything. I do not know what made you to talk that way.

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN : I do not think in any way. I do not know. That is why I am asking about whom he is mentioning.

SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN : You mean, you want a clarification ?

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN : I want a clarification.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN) : Let him finish.

SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN : He dragged my name and I have to clarify.

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN : I am very happy that you have clarified.

SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN : I do not have anybody in my mind.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN) : There is no need to have.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY : People are... (*Interruptions*)...rushing there with advertisements that it is the contribution of Madam Jayalalitha... (*Interruptions*)...He is now saying that there is no publicity.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN) : You cannot give a clarification on behalf of Shri Ramachandran.

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN : Madam, Mr. Gopalsamy is giving a clarification on behalf of Mr. Ramachandran. The point is whenever... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN : I have to give my clarification. I was talking at the national level. I would never talk at the State level.

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN : I know. I know.

SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN : I was telling that when we go for a rescue work or a rehabilitation work or a relief work not only in Tamil Nadu but in any part of our country, we should not be after publicity or something else. When you take it that way, I do not understand what made you to take it that way ? What pricked your conscience ?

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY : Mr. Ramachandran and myself toured the areas where for three days no relief reached the people. Mr. Swaminathan is coming here and telling this now. For three days, there was nothing done for the people.

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN : I am sorry that our hon. Members are taking it as a political stand. You fight with the Centre, not with the State Government.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN) : Please, Mr. Ramachandran. I am not allowing it. It is enough.

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN : All of us have to plead with the hon. Minister for Agriculture. But they are trying to politicise the matter.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN) : Please address me. You do not talk to them.

SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN : We are all with you. We are all supporting you.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN) : Please sit down. No more interruptions...No more interruptions. Mr. Ramachandran, please sit down. Please sit down. I cannot allow this.

SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN : Madam, when he addresses me...(*Interruptions*)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN) : No, he would not address you. He is addressing me. He is addressing me. You please sit down...(*Interruptions*)...Please sit down.

SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN : Mr. Swaminathan. I want to make one thing very clear. Only one word...(*Interruptions*)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN) : I cannot allow any more interruptions.

SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN : Only one word. We are strongly behind the Government in its demands for the welfare of people. Is it enough ?

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN : Thank you, Mr. Ramachandran that you are strongly behind the Government...(*Interruptions*)... I am very happy that all the Members of the Party are now requesting that maximum relief should be given by the Government of India. The Government of Tamil Nadu and all the Ministers including the Chief Minister who was here to attend a conference, requested that maximum relief should be given to Tamil Nadu. Immediately after the Chief Minister went to Madras, she toured the places and she saw to it that all the Ministers went to those areas and amelioration was done to those people. The whole administration was geared up and much has been done in those areas. Because these are all matters of detail, I do not want to go into them. But the main poipnt is that the best that could be done has been done by the Tamil Nadu Government and it is still continuing. Even before the visit of the honourable Prime Minister she wanted to go to the other three districts. But, because the honourable Prime Minister was going there, she had to cancel it and she could not go. She is also touring along with the Prime Minister and she will have an opportunity to tell him. The Prime Minister is going to visit those areas and she will have an opportunity to talk to the Prime Minister and personally request him to give as much funds as possible to the State Government.

I will now come to the main point. The Government of India, in its payments to the States, is very tardy. Even during last year, Tamil Nadu had a cyclone and our estimate then was somewhere around Rs. 390 crores which we wanted from the Centre and the amount granted to us was only Rs. 45 lakhs ! They also stipulated that this amount of Rs. 45 lakhs should be given as solatium to those people who had died during the cyclone ! This time also we have asked for, after a detailed calculation, Rs. 530 Crores. But the Government of India has so far released, as per the recommendations of the Ninth Finance Commission, only Rs. 10.12 crores as advance only and not as a grant ! I would only like to plead with the Government of India that whatever the Ninth Finance Commission has recommended with regard to the Calamity Relief Fund is totally inadequate. They give about eight hundred crores for all the states. With this Rs. 39 crores Tamil Nadu would not be able to manage and whatever they have given now is only the fourth quarter advance. They have said that two-thirds of what is due to us next year we can collect now as advance. That will definitely be not suffcient for Tamil Nadu. In this connection, I take this opportunity to submit a few points.

Firstly, the calculations in the Ninth Finance Commission Report is based almost ten years ago. So, you have to do something about the inflation that has occurred in between. You have to have an inflation index as you have in the case of capital gains. The Finance Minister has to take into account the inflation and according to that inflation index he has to calculate. They calculate it at just 12 per cent for a particular year and fix it up, for the next five years. They have to take into account the inflation index. So, this way, even if they take into account the inflation index for this amount of Rs. 39 crores, we may get another Rs. 39 crores.

Secondly, as the other honourable Members have said, I also feel that you must have a Central Relief Fund through which you would be able to redress the grievances of the people on such occasions.

Thirdly, you must start an insurance fund. This was talked about by the Ninth Finance Commission. Both the LIC and the GIC have not taken it up. I would request the honourable Minister to take up this matter and see that they do as much as possible for the benefit of the people of Tamil Nadu.

I hope that after the visit of the houonrable Prime Minister to Tamil Nadu, Tamil Nadu will be able to get adequate funds for relief purposes. Thank you.

SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD (Karnataka): Thank yau, Madam.

[The Vice-Chairman (Shrimati Sushma Swaraj) in the Chair.]

While agreeing with my senior colleagues about the seriousness of the cyclone in the southern parts of the country, I would also like to remind the House of the opinion expressed by senior Members like Shri Balram and Shri Narayanasamy and others, that there is a feeling in the southern parts of the country that we have been meted out a stepmotherly treatment in regard to some of our problems. The honourable Minister has, in his statement, mentioned about the visit of the Prime Minister. He has visited some of the States where the cyclone and floods have been very severe. But it is very unfortunate that to this day none of these Ministers has visited Karnataka though the loss is very heavy there also. It is high time that the Centre changed its approach towards this problem before it is too late. It is because the people, specially in Karnataka are agitated over the treatment meted out to them.

Madam, for years now, Karnataka has been bearing the brunt of the nature's vagaries at its extreme—the northern districts of Gulbarga, Bidar, Raichur, Bellary and Bijapur are reeling under a severe drought whereas the other parts of the State, specially the coastal districts like the South Kanara, the North Kanara, Mysore, Hubli, Dharwad, Chitradurga, Shimoga and some parts of the rural and urban districts of Bangalore have been ravaged by flash floods caused by the cyclonic storm and the heavy downpour from 15th to 21st of November, 1992.

Madam, the devastation caused by the flash floods and the cyclonic storm is disastrous in terms of human misery, disruption in communications, outbreak of epidemics, and severe setback to agricultural crops. On account of torrential rains, 64 villages were marooned, 92 human lives and 35,400 livestock were lost. More than 55,000 dwellings have been razed to the ground. The estimated loss of agricultural crop area inundated is around 2.40 lakh hectares. Added to this are more than 1,97,000 dwellings that are battered beyond repair, rendering the inhabitants homeless.

Madam, the State Government had put its rescue machinery in combat gear and launched relief operations on a war-footing. Besides arranging for the disbursement of compensation—crop damage compensation, ex-gratia to the next of kin of the deceased persons and compensation for the loss of livestock and for damage to private properties—the State Government had to restore vital communication links, mostly damaged roads and also minor irrigation facilities threatened by the turbulent waters.

Madam, in this process of restoration of near normalcy, the State Government has already released a sum of Rs. 30.97 crores up to 22nd November, 1992 against the annual 'Calamity Allocation' both from the

Centre and the State set at Rs. 27 crores only, thus overshooting the resources by more than Rs. 4 crores. The task is still incomplete and the momentum of relief operations has to be kept at the same pace. The State Government thus expects replenishment of funds for continued relief work and looks upon the Centre for immediate assistance of at least Rs. 200 crores in the form of grants to provide immediate succour to the victims of this natural calamity. On its part, Madam, the State Government has deployed its available manpower and resources on the job, and it is for the Centre to back up their efforts by releasing grants so essential to keep the relief operations going in full steam.

Madam, I would like to mention some of the districts which have been badly affected by the cyclonic storm. Specially, Madam, Raichur district is still reeling under the aftermath of flash floods. Seven villages were marooned on the banks of the Thungabhadra, still threatening erosion of more villages on the banks. 36 human lives were lost as also more than 10,500 cattleheads. Dwelling collapsed amount to more than 26,500, and severe damages were inflicted on more than 22,500 dwellings. Madam in the district of Bellary, due to heavy rains in the catchment areas of the Thungabhadra dam, the authorities were forced to open the crest gates as a result of which many villages on the downstream were inundated. 12 human lives and more than 13,500 cattleheads were lost. More than 17,500 houses have collapsed and 30,345 houses have been severly damaged, Madam in the district of Dharwad, more than 6,000 dwelling units were destroyed totally and 49,048 were severely damaged. In the North Kanara district, though there were no human lives lost, 194 cattleheads were lost. More than 57 dwellings were razed to the ground. In the other severely affected district of Chitradurga, the Thungabhadra was in full fury and spate, inundating more than 15 villages in Harihar taluk. 9 human lives and about 7,025 cattleheads were lost. The crop area under water is about 8,755 hectares with standing crops worth Rs. 820 lakhs being damaged.

Madam, in the other part of the State, specially in Shimoga, 6 human lives and 324 cattleheads were lost. In Mysore, 15 villages were marooned due to heavy rains in the catchment area of Palar river causing flash floods in Kollegal taluk. Two human lives were lost, about two thousand cattleheads were lost, about 300 dwelling units collapsed and more than 200 such units were partially damaged. In the district of Chickmagalur, 32 human lives were lost, about 100 cattleheads were lost, hundreds of houses collapsed. In the coastal region of Dakshina Kannada, adding to the misery of torrential rains, the sea also turned rough over the coastal areas of Suratkal and Malpe affecting the livelihood of local fishermen. Three human lives were lost and ten houses collapsed fully and about a thousand houses were partially damaged.

I sincerely request the Central Government to rush all possible assistance to the State Government so that they can help the people in distress. Thank you.

SHRI GUNDAPPA KORWAR (Karnataka) : Madam, I associate myself with what the hon. Member has just said.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI SHUSHMA SWARAJ) : Shri Mentay Padmanabham, not here. Shri Pragada Kotaiah.

SHRI PRAGADA KOTAIAH (Andhra Pradesh) : Madam, I am thankful to you for giving me this opportunity to speak on the recent natural calamity in Southern States. We Coastal Andhra people are very unfortunate because almost every year, we get either cyclone or heavy rains or floods. According to the Departments of Agriculture and Irrigation of Andhra Pradesh, during the last century, we in coastal Andhra had cyclones, rains and floods, in 87 years. One can imagine the loss sustained by the coastal Andhra people, because we are all paddy producers. There is, no doubt, general insurance for paddy crops. Recently, I visited Palakol in West Godavari district. I met the President of the District Co-operative Central Bank who told me that loans amounting to Rs. 50 crores were advanced to the agriculturists this year upon which Rs. 1.5 crores were collected as premium from the paddy growing agriculturists towards insurance premium. But, are they going to get adequate compensation from the general insurance company ? They are not going to get

adequate compensation from the general insurance company because the insurance company is taking mandal as a unit and in one unit, there are more than 100 villages on an average. Here and there they will have crop cuttings and come to the conclusion that the average loss to the agriculturists is much less and ultimately the agriculturists are not going to get, or are not able to get, any compensation from the general insurance company. That is what is happening during the last several years. Whenever there was a famine or drought and loss of crops, the Government formerly used to give takkavi loans and also grant remission of the *kists* and for this purpose, the Revenue Inspector goes to each and every field to assess the loss sustained by the agriculturist. The loss of crop is for four annas, six annas or eight annas, whatever it is. Ultimately, he gets some sort of relief on account of the *takkavi* loans and also waiver of this *kist*. But this is not so with the General Insurance Company. For example, in one district of West Godavari alone, the nationalised banks and the co-operative central bank have collected more than Rs. 1 crore and 50 lakhs, as premium, from the paddy producers and this was passed on to the General Insurance Company. Now, because of the floods, the agriculturists of West Godavari and East Godavari districts have lost very heavily. I do not know to what extent the General Insurance Company is going to help them. There is one point. What I would urge upon the Government is that there must be adequate assistance from the General Insurance Company to the agriculturists, as long as they are paying the premium, as per the guidelines issued by the Reserve Bank of India.

Madam, there is one more thing. Coastal Andhra gets floods every year, cyclones every year. According to the Departments of Agriculture and Irrigation, in the last one Century, we had cyclones, heavy rains and floods, in 87 years. Instead of depending on this Calamities Relief Fund, which will not be sufficient enough to make good the loss sustained by the agriculturists, the Government will have to think of an alternative method as to how to help the agriculturists substantially who are losing their standing crops almost every year. Some suggest that there should be some sort of a revolving fund, exclusively, to help the agriculturists who loss their standing crops. This is one thing.

The other thing is, in our area, in my younger days, the harvest of paddy came only in the month of January. Therefore, cyclone and rains could not affect the standing crops. But now, the duration of the crop is reduced to 4½ months. Earlier, it was for more than six months. It is 4½ months or 5 months now. Therefore, the harvest is either in the last week of October, or, in the first or second week of November, during which period alone cyclones occur every year, floods occur every year, heavy rains occur every year. That is why I say that Government should think of an alternative cropping pattern. This is very much essential, as far as coastal Andhra Pradesh is concerned. If there is loss every year, I am not able to understand how to make good the loss of ryots. Therefore, either, there should be a change in the cropping pattern, or, we should take adequate measures to compensate the heavy loss being sustained by the agriculturists.

Madam, whenever there is heavy rain, the poor suffer the most because the huts of the village artisans collapse automatically. The Government gives them Rs. 150 or Rs. 200. With two hundred rupees, they cannot raise their huts. Unless they raise their huts, they cannot carry on with their traditional occupation. For instance, in almost all the areas, we find handloom weavers. Whenever there is heavy rain, automatically, their huts collapse. The handloom pits are filled with water. This is the position everywhere. Any Minister can go and see them. Almost all the handloom pits are filled with water and they cannot carry on with their occupation for 15-20 days. They cannot do any other work. They are suffering, actually starving, but unfortunately no guidelines have been laid down for providing relief to poor people like handloom weavers. The handloom weavers have to remain unemployed for two to three weeks on account of the pits being filled with water. They cannot carry on with their profession. Therefore, we have to think of providing some help to the handloom weavers who go out of

employment because their loom pits are filled with water and they cannot carry on with their occupation. Also, some provision of consumption loans must be made for all such classes of people. They should be free of interest, that is also essential.

The other section is the fishermen who lose on two counts. First of all, during these rains they cannot operate their catamarans. That means they cannot have any catches. We are not doing anything for them. We are not even able to distribute rice to them stating that they do not lose anything. If they go into the sea they may lose catamarans, but immediately after the warning of cyclones, they keep their catamarans on the shore and thus there may not be heavy loss of catamarans, but what about the work? If they do not have work continuously for two to three weeks, they suffer and starve, that is to be considered by the Government.

Their other problem is, we have to realise as to how mechanised boats are affecting lakhs of fishermen who are living on the seaside. Though the mechanised boats are expected to catch fish beyond 10 kms. from the shore, normally they come down and catch fish and on that account it is the poor fishermen who lose. They are not able to have their usual catches of fish. That is always there and for that no remedial measures have been found so far.

Madam, these are some of the measures which should be taken up. We have to think of changing of crop pattern, provide adequate compensation under crop insurance, waiver of loans, providing of loans free of interest. Whether it is the RBI or the NABARD, nothing is done substantially. Then there are the problems of handloom weavers, fishermen and village artisans. The Government must provide guidelines to give consumption loans, or some other means to feed them for at least a period of two to three weeks.

प्रो० आई० जी० सनदी (कर्नाटक) : मैडम, आपने मुझे बोलने का मौका दिया है मैं आपका आभारी हूं। सोलह, सत्रह और अठारह तारीख को कयामत के बादल कर्नाटक पर छाए हुए थे। जहां भी और जिधर भी हम नजर दौड़ाते थे, पानी ही पानी दिखाई देता था। हम ने वहां के लोगों को तड़पते हुए पाया। आज वर्षा तो थम गई है लेकिन लोगों के आंसू बह रहे हैं। अभी तक भाग्य विधाता केन्द्रीय सरकार की ओर उनकी नजर लगी है। मुझे विश्वास है कि करुणामयी हमारी केन्द्रीय सरकार और हमारे कृषि मंत्री जाखड़ जी उन्हें खून के आंसू नहीं पीने देंगे क्योंकि इनके हृदय में करुणा है, उनके प्रति प्रेम है, उनके प्रति सद्भावना है। इसलिए जब-जब भी इस तरह की विपत्ति देश पर आती है, वे कैसे जगह-जगह घूमते हैं, किस तरह से उन्हें सांत्वना देते हैं, इस बात से यह देश परिचित है। मैडम, अभी-अभी मेरे कई बन्धुओं ने पांडिचेरी के बारे में, केरल के बारे में, तमिलनाडु के बारे में जो हालात बताए हैं, कर्नाटक की हालत भी उससे कम भयावह नहीं है। धारवाड़ डिस्ट्रिक्ट पर आये तो वहां पर चंदापुर में रहने वाले लोगों का संबंध टूट गया। ऐसी बुरी हालत में वहां पर लोग नजर आते हैं। देखा नहीं जाता है।

कर्नाटक के चीफ मिनिस्टर ने अपना पदभार सम्भालते ही इसका फौरन दौरा किया। इतना ही नहीं क्षत-विक्षत हर डिस्ट्रिक्ट में उन्होंने मिनिस्टर भेजे। तड़पते हुए लोगों की तकलीफों को दूर करने के लिए, उनकी मदद करने के लिए काफी सराहनीय कदम उठाये गये। रायचूर डिस्ट्रिक्ट बल्लारी, शिवमोग्गा, चित्रदुर्ग, मैसूर, हासन, बिजापूर जहां कहीं भी देखिये 9, 10, 11, 12 डिस्ट्रिक्ट ऐसे हैं कर्नाटक में जहां आज उनकी हालत बहुत दयनीय है। बाढ़ के कारण ऐसा हो गया है कि सिर्फ रास्ते ही नहीं टूटे हैं बल्कि 200,300 मीटर लम्बी रेल की पटरियां जो थी वह भी गायब हो गईं। यातायात के साधन नहीं रहे। मुझे एक बात पर भरोसा था कि जब भगवान देता है तो छप्पर फाड़ कर देता है। मैं समझ रहा था दौलत देता है, इज्जत देता है लेकिन अब मैं इस बात पर आकर्षित

हुआ है कि जब इम्तहान का वक्त आता है तब भगवान लेता है तो छप्पर फाड़ कर लेता है। जिस धरती पर वह फसल है उस धरती को ही वह छीन लेता है। मैं समझता हूं यह एक तरह से इम्तहान है और इस इम्तहान में कामयाब होने की क्षमता है, शक्ति है इस केन्द्रीय सरकार में। वह कामयाब होगी, यह मेरा भरोसा है।

मैं कर्नाटक की ओर से संक्षेप में आप के सामने दो बातें रखना चाहता हूं। सौ से अधिक लोग मृत्यु के शिकार हो गए। 5 हजार के करीब जो हमारा पशुधन था—गाय, भैंस, बकरी आदि ये सारे पानी के हवाले हो गये। तीन लाख एकड़ पर खड़ी फसल, खेत-खलिहानों में किसानों का अनाज जो था पानी के हवाले हो गया। दो लाख से ज्यादा लोगों के घर धराशायी हो गये। जाखड़ जी से खास प्रार्थना है कि हमारे कर्नाटक के जो मुख्य मंत्री हैं उन्होंने जो काफी चीजों का रिप्रेजेन्टेशन दिया है और मांगा है वह राष्ट्रीय विपदा राहत कोष से जो पिछले साल का 10 करोड़ बकाया है वह धनराशि देने की कृपा करें। अगले साल के लिए विपदा राशि में से भी 20 करोड़ रुपये दे देंगे तो काम वहां जल्दी से शुरू हो जायेगा। इसके साथ-साथ 200 करोड़ की स्पेशल ग्रांट के तौर पर कर्नाटक को दे देंगे तो आपकी बड़ी मेहरबानी होगी।

अभी-अभी प्रागदा कोटैया जी ने भी कहा लोगों के पास न पैसा है और न काम करने की क्षमता है। इसलिए अनाज देने के लिए, पैसा देने के लिए 75 करोड़ रुपये चालू वर्षीय जवाहर रोजगार योजना के फंड में से कर्नाटक के लिए रिलीज करेंगे तो बड़ी मेहरबानी होगी। मुझे खुशी है जैसा कहा गया :

दीन सबन को लखत है, दीनहि लखै न कोई।
जो दीनहि लखै वह दीन बन्धु सम होई ॥

हमारे प्रधान मंत्री नरसिंह राव जी दूसरे राज्यों के साथ कर्नाटक में भी दौरा करने जा रहे हैं, मैं समझता हूं उनका इस दिशा में यह एक सही कदम है। मैं खास कर जाखड़ साहब से प्रार्थना करना चाहता हूं कर्नाटक के क्षत-विक्षत इलाकों का परीक्षण करने के लिए एक स्टडी टीम जल्द से जल्द कर्नाटक भेजें तो बड़ी मेहरबानी होगी। कर्नाटक को आज जो क्षति पहुंची है, मैंने सुना है, वहां के लोग कहते हैं कि सौ सालों में इस तरह की दुर्दशा नहीं हुई थी। धन्यवाद।

SHRI GUNDAPPA KORWAR (Karnataka): Madam, I associate myself with him.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): Okay, your association will be recorded.

श्री बलराम जाखड़ : मैं सभी माननीय सदस्यों के साथ सहमत हूं। जिस तरह की उन्होंने अपनी वेदना व्यक्त की है वह बिल्कुल सही है। इसमें कोई दो राय नहीं हो सकती, किसी की भी नहीं हो सकती...

SHRI S. MADHAVAN (Tamil Nadu): The South is affected. Speak in English, please.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: I am surprised.

प्रो० आई० जी० सनदी : आप हिन्दी में बहुत अच्छा बोलते हैं।

श्री बलराम जाखड़ : कोई बात नहीं दोनों में बोल लूंगा।

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: I am surprised.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: No problem. I don't discriminate between this and that. I can. It is all right. No problem.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: You have the translation.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: Madam Vice-Chairman, I agree with what my honourable colleagues have expressed. I

feel the same way. I saw that not only this time. Last year also I was there. I was in Karnataka. I was in Tamil Nadu. I was in Pondicherry also and also in Kerala. I had gone there, seen the devastation and felt the same thing as a man who belongs to a village does, who knows what farming is. Naturally he feels much more on seeing the loss, his whole crop being destroyed. His feeling is very intense. It gives him agony. It is like this. You are just on the dining table, a plate of fruits has been placed before you and somebody just kicks it out of your reach. How you feel about it, I know that. That is why I immediately rushed there. I went there and saw it. I have seen it in Kerala also.

Before I proceed on it, I must say something to Balaramji, my namesake and my elder brother. Balaramji, I have never discriminated against this or that. I do not discriminate even between man and man. It is insulting to think that a man is lower or higher. That is the same way in which I think about our States. They are all dear to me, whether they are in the South or in the North or in the East or in the West. It is something abominable for me to think otherwise. I have the same respect, the same affection, the same loyalty and the same dedication to all of them. I want them all to come up together in a bright, very bright, enjoyable atmosphere. I have not discriminated in this approach anywhere.

SHRI N. E. BALARAM : I have not spoken against you, I want to say immediately.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR : Don't worry. When I am here, I am going to defend that, you see. No problem.

I can't even listen...

SHRI N. E. BALARAM : I have tried to bring this to your notice—it means the Central Government—that some such feelings are there.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR : Never in my presence has anything been said or done like that.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY : Jakharji, it is not against you. You are a very good man. The tendancy has developed over decades.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR : I will be the last person to do so. I never like to see any person even saying like that to discriminate one State against another. They are all jewels in the same crown. They are all part and parcel of the mainstream of India. I am proud of them. Wherever I go I feel right at home and find an enjoyable atmosphere there.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY : It is because of you that the severity in our tone has mellowed.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR : That is right, Sir. I know, I could not....

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : Mr. Gopalsamy it is better if you listen to the Minister.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR : Last time I went there, Balaramji and Antonyji, both of them, mentioned certain aspects of my observations I made when I had gone there. No, Sir, I did not mean anything like that. Last time when I went, I had something with me. Without anybody's asking, immediately I gave advances not only this year but also last year. I did it under the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana also. I did it under the accelerated water supply scheme also. In addition I got Rs. 50 crores of ways-and-means allocation to that State. Then, about foodgrains also I said that we would do it.

This time I returned from Hyderabad at 11-00 or 11-30 p.m. in the night. The next day early morning when I came to know about this and I talked to the Prime Minister about this calamity, he said, "Balaramji, immediately rush". That was what I wanted. That was the permission I was seeking. He himself, Madam Vice-Chairman, was shaken by this. Immediately I rushed. That is why I could not inform the Tamil Nadu Government. We tried to contact them, but the Chief Minister had already left. She contacted me later that day on telephone and said, "I did not know anything. We have got the highest respect and are very very thankful for your coming." That is why I too said, "All right. There is no misunderstanding in my mind." I think we

all, all the parties share the same thing. All the State Governments share the same thing. I think there is no man worth his salt who can remain unaffected by this type of calamity affecting any person, any countryman living in any State. That is why I think we are all privy. We are all one in this. We have to share this whole burden, and we have to carry the burden on us. That is what it is. Many Members have cited about para six of the Ninth Finance Commission's report. They have said that we can change it. I think the sooner it is changed, the better it will be because my hands are tied up. I feel constrained. I had a sort of personal experience before the Ninth Finance Commission. When we had a very severe drought in this country in 1987-88, we could get more than Rs. 600 crores for one State. We could dump that money. We could do that and we told them to get up with that money. That is what we did. But I think it was not the Centre which had thrust this thing upon the States. It was the States rather who said : "Who are you ? We will take care of ourselves. Give us the money. We will keep it in safe. And whenever the time comes, we will spend it." That is how we tied ourselves into a knot, which is very pernicious. We have to untie it. It is before the Finance Commission. You have seen what happened in Uttarkashi. You have seen the floods and cyclones in Andhra Pradesh where 1000 lives have been lost, more than 1000 heads of cattle have perished and so many things have happened there. The same is the case with Bihar. Now, one hon. Member had asked me why there was no mention about Andhra Pradesh in the statement. Even the Andhra Pradesh Government have so far not asked for any help from us. I thought that they will take care of themselves, if something has happened. If anything has happened there, why should I exclude Andhra Pradesh from my statement ? There was no apparent reason. They did not give anything to me. If they had given me anything, I would have shared their agony and vicissitude in their hearts or whatever they would have felt. I would have liked to render help whatever I could. I would have released them CRF advance. There is no problem for me. I did the same thing last time also. What did I do in Tamil Nadu ? I told them I will render help in whatever way I can. But there are certain things which are beyond my capacity. I will do whatever is possible within my power. I had given them an overall picture, the kaleidoscope view point taken throughout India, not pinpointing one State or the other. That has been the main idea of this thing. We have taken a collective view. So nothing has been done on an exclusive basis for any State so far. But we have found out ways and means to do that. In the case of Uttarkashi, we did it. In the case of Andhra Pradesh, we did it. Now we have asked the Government of Kerala and the Government of Tamil Nadu to prepare schemes so that we can get them something from the World Bank as a loan. We have asked them to prepare a plan for housing and for laying down infrastructures. We talked to them about HUDCO. We will provide them money from HUDCO as well as loans from the National Housing Bank so that they can be rehabilitated.

In Uttarkashi, we had planned about 20,000 dwelling units. We were to give them Rs. 20,000 as grant and Rs. 15,000 as a loan by the HUDCO and by the National Housing Bank. About 7000 dwelling units have been completed. About 3000 dwelling units are nearing completion. Some dwelling units are nearing to the plinth level. That is how we are proceeding along that way.

Before coming to this House this morning I was attending a meeting convened by the Prime Minister. While it was going on. I had asked for the Prime Minister's permission to leave the meeting because the Upper House is going to take up the Calling Attention motion on the impact of recent floods and cyclonic storms. They were also discussing this very thing, what to do and how to go about and put something there to help the people. I know and all of you know the severity inflicted by nature is so intense at times, that India has not been signed out. An hon. Member from that side asked me "Why did you not forecast it ?" We did it. That is why we could save some lives. They have forecast it all the 24 hours but yet this thing had happened. Throughout the world, these things do happen. Florida, in USA, was bit by hurricanes twice. Philip-

pines was hit by hurricanes. Bangladesh was hit by floods. We know what is coming up. But still you cannot match the velocity of the wind, you cannot match the ferocity of nature. That is why we are still vulnerable. It will take time for us to be up to the point and face them. But we must also realise that no Government worth its name on this planet anywhere in this world, is capable enough to meet all the damages caused by the natural calamities. We can help you. Please get up and work so that you again sustain yourselves. We have seen hailstorms and cyclones. Sometimes we have whirlwinds. You know the show it makes. Once it threw a truck 300 feet away. Something like that happens. We have to face these challenges. But it is the helping hand which can sustain our people at a given time. Give them some helping hand and they will sustain themselves. That is what we are trying to do.

I was referring to the meeting I had with the Prime Minister this morning. The Prime Minister asked all of us to prepare a scheme for the coastal areas, cyclone-prone areas. We must find out some ways and means for all time to come, to be prepared for this type of onslaughts of nature. And that is what we are trying to do, to prevent anything else like that. Last time, when we went there, I had a chance to meet the officers of the State Governments in Tamil Nadu and Kerala. I said to them, "Let us find out some ways and means". We have to prepare some rules, some proforma. That is what should be done. We should have that type of plantations which can withstand the ferocity of the wind, nature. We should have some such things. One thing about flood is this. This is better than the drought because the drought gives misery, nothing else. At least after the floods, there remains some moisture in the soil. Last time when I went to the Kolar Fields, I found that in the Kolar District, there was no water at all in the wells for the last five years. And, this flood left all of them brimming with water. "Next year, if you can help us, we will raise our crops and we will try to be back on our feet", they said now. We have to take a sort of initiative ourselves and create something out of nothing.

I have gone and met those people in the camps. I have seen their eyes filled with tears. I have seen small children crying, lying helpless on the roadside. It is pitiable. But I have to see what we can do. The Prime Minister will be going there tomorrow. We are discussing with the Finance Minister what can be spread. But the point is, you can cut the coat according to the availability of the cloth only. The same problem is existent here.

Mr. Ramachandranji made a suggestion here and I have been propounding that theory for long. We give an amount to the States. The States will, in four instalments keep that money given to them intact as Calamity Relief Fund advance. When the time comes, in a year or so, they will spend it. It is not that each year there will be a calamity. It happens sometimes. We have taken the average of ten years. That is how all this money was given to the States at their reckoning. You know—and everybody knows it—whenever we give them money, they just spend it somehow or the other, on some project or in the name of drought or on some rural development. Something happens like that. I think the only way out of this, as Ramachandranji suggested, is to have a Revolving Fund, a fund created by our own will, to meet certain exigencies in life, certain things which happen unexpectedly at some time. This is what it is. I am trying to bring a new legislation or, rather, a new policy, a New Agriculture Policy, in which I am trying to give another thrust for crop insurance, for all the crops. But, this is sort of a test. It will be only sort of an experiment in one district of ..... (*Interruptions*).

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV (Maharashtra) : When is that policy coming before this House ?

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR : It is coming shortly. I will give you an opportunity to discuss it before the end of the Session. I think it is already approved by the Cabinet. I am just going to get the final shape done and bring it to you so that you can discuss it. I have got the doors open for you. If there is anything missing in that, I will add it. I have no hard and fast rule. My only point is, we must progress, all of us together. This Agriculture Policy is all-pervading. It concerns everybody because 75 to 80 per cent of the

people are dependent on agriculture and we want to make it viable. I want them to have a good life. I want them to have something to rub shoulders with the highest and the mightiest in the country. That is my objective.

The Prime Minister is going there tomorrow. If we can find certain things through any means, we will try to do it. I have brought it to his notice. He is very much exercised over it. How to do it? There is so much of demand. There is so much of paucity of funds here also. That is why I have said we will try to do whatever we can do in our power, we will be at your disposal. I think the House will agree with me that I will leave no stone unturned and I think the Prime Minister, who is going tomorrow, will take into consideration and discuss on the spot with the Chief Ministers present there as to what their problems are, as to what their difficulties are and we will try to find a common way out of it. Thank you.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : Mr. Moturu Hanumantha Rao, do you want to ask something? Are you not satisfied with the answer of the Minister?

SHRI MOTURU HANUMANTHA RAO : I want a clarification from the hon. Minister.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : There is no system of clarification after this. But what do you want to ask?

SHRI MOTURU HANUMANTHA RAO : Madam, the hon. Minister said that the Andhra Pradesh Government has not sent any report at all. I am surprised to hear that because on 24th November, 1992 Andhra Pradesh M.Ps. were called upon to meet the Chief Minister and when this question was raised, he told us that he was corresponding with the Central Government and the Food Corporation of India was allowing paddy to be purchased by relaxing certain norms. So obviously, he has been reporting to the Central Government. This is number one. The second thing is, he issued a statement that Thungabhadra water was released irresponsibly by the authorities without informing the farmers there, that is why so many areas were inundated both in Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh, and we are compelled to pay compensation also to the farmers for having created this situation. That also has appeared in the press. Besides all this, the hon. Minister, through his department should have obtained all the reports about Andhra Pradesh. All this has appeared in the newspapers and you have got every information. You should have collected the information and given it to us even without getting any report from Andhra Pradesh or from us. It is your responsibility.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI SUHAMA SWARAJ) : He has followed your question. Mr. Minister would you like to react?

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR : Yes. When I get the information, I pass it on. There is no problem. They might have asked the FCI to purchase wheat and then it is a separate department. They might have asked them. There is no problem. And why should I withhold any information? What good does it do to me? Why should I not share that information with you and examine it?

SHRI MOTURU HANUMANTHA RAO : You have sent your team to Tamil Nadu even without the State Government asking you to send your team to assess the situation.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : All right. The Calling Attention is over. Mr. Balaram, what do you want? You had already spoken and he has replied. What do you want?

SHRI N. E. BALARAM : I want to ask one clarification.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : There is no provision for seeking clarifications after this. What is this?

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY : Madam, when the Minister gives a reply, there is a common practice in the House...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : I know the rules, I know what the common practice is Mr. Gopalsamy, please sit down.

SHRI N. E. BALARAM : Madam, when the hon. Minister was there in Trivandrum last week, he promised to give them 10,000 tones of rice. This is the letter from the Minister. I do not want to read the letter. He says : "He received 2,000 tonnes and there are about 1½ lakh people still in the relief camps. They have no right to the supply." Can you do something abolt it ? I think you have got a copy of this letter.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR : I explained to those people as to what had happened. They had some understanding earlier regarding other supplies. So it was adjusted with them. But I told them that when I go back, I will ask them not to adjust it at that time and do it that way.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : All right. The Calling Attention is over. Now we will take up the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 1992.

THE CITIZENSHIP (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1992

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB) : Madam Vice-Chairman, I beg to move :

> "That the Bill further to amend the Citizenship Act, 1955, as passed by Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The Government proposes to amend Section 4(1) of the Citizenship Act, 1955. The Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women was adopted by Resolution No. 34/1980 of the U.N. General Assembly on the 22nd January, 1980. India was the Chairman of the Working Group which had drafted the Convention. The Preamble of the Convention notes that the State Parties to the International Conventions on Human Rights have the obligation to censure equal rights of men and women to enjoy all economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights. The term "discrimination against women" has been defined to mean any distinction, exclusion or restriction made on the basis of sex which has effect on purpose of impairing or nullifying the recognition, enjoyment or exercise by women, irrespective of their marital status, on the basis of equality of men and women of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural, civil or any other field. The ratification of this Covention by the Government of India had, however, been held up due to a conflict between Article 9(2) of the Convention and Section 4(1) of the Indian Citizenship Act, 1955. Article 9(2) of the Convention reads : "States parties shall grant women equal rights with men with respect to the nationality of their children." This is in conflict with existing Section 4(1) of the Citizenship Act, 1955 which provides that "a person born outside India on or after the 26th January, 1950 shall be a citizen of India by descent, if his father is a citizen of India at the time of his birth." Ratification of the Convention would require an amendment of the Citizenship Act so as to grant women equal rights with men with respect to the nationality of children.

There will be no expenditure from the Consolidated Fund of India.

Accordingly, it is proposed to enact the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 1992. The proposed legislation which is by way of amendment to the Citizenship Act, 1955 seeks that in future a child born abroad may become an Indian citizen if either of his parents is an Indian citizen at the time of his birth and also to make necessary consequential amendments in the Act.

With these words, I commend the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 1992, as passed by Lok Sabha, for the consideration of the House.

The question was proposed.

श्रीमती सरला माहेश्वरी (पश्चिम बंगाल) माननीय उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदया, मैं आभारी हूं जो आपने मुझे पहले बोलने का मौका दिया। उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदया, स्त्रियों के साथ वर्षों से चले आ रहे इस कानूनी अन्याय को समाप्त करने के लिए यह जो नागरिकता (संशोधन) विधेयक लाया गया है, यद्यपि यह विधेयक भी कानून की कसौटी पर इंसाफ की कसौटी पर